

# MATERIALS FOR THE ORNITHOLOGY OF AFGHANISTAN

BY  
HUGH WHISTLER (Deceased).

## PART III

(Continued from Vol. 45, No. 1 (1944), p. 72).

### *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens* (Jerdon).

Specimens collected.—♂ 20-4-1879, ♂ 1-6-1880 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ 20-5-1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); 2 sex? 15 May Kila Wali, Murghab (Yate); ♀ 28 May 1933 Kabul, ♀ 6 August 1933 Baqrami, 5,700 ft., ♂ 6 May 1934 Chaharasia 5,700 ft., ♀ 21 June 1934 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 23 April Bamian 8,500 ft., 4 ♂ 1 ♀ 5-9 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

In the first week of May Meinertzhagen found the Indian Great Reed-Warbler commencing to breed at Danaghori where the large expanse of reeds is well suited to its requirements. It was also breeding, he says at Kunduz on 20 May and at Jalalabad on 31 May. Maconachie notes that it was plentiful in the reeds at Baqrami on 6 August. It is no doubt a summer visitor to Northern Afghanistan.

Wardlaw-Ramsay obtained a single bird at Byan Khel 7,000 ft. on 20 May which was evidently on passage as were probably St. John's two specimens collected at Kandahar on 20 April and 1st June.

### *Acrocephalus agricola* Jerdon.

Specimens collected.—♂ 21 June 1934 Logar (Maconachie) 2 ♂ 15 April Ghorband 6,500 ft., 1 ♂ 2 ♀ 2 May Doshi 2,750 ft., ♂ 7 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The status of the Paddy-Field Warbler is not quite clear. Meinertzhagen says that the Doshi and Danaghori birds should have been breeding by the state of their organs. They were in long grass and coarse reeds but not over water. Maconachie's specimen also had the organs enlarged. Sir Alexander Burnes is said to have obtained it at Kabul.

### *Acrocephalus concinens haringtoni* Witherby.

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 5-6 May 1937 Danaghori.

Meinertzhagen says that these specimens of Harington's Reed-Warbler were found in the reeds at Danaghori in company with the Great Reed-Warbler. They were singing lustily and apparently in their breeding quarters. The examination of fresh material has satisfied me that *A.c. hokrae* is not separable from *A.c. haringtoni*.

### *Acrocephalus dumetorum* Blyth.

Specimens collected.—♂ 13 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 21 May Kunduz 1,400 ft., 2 ♀ 24 May 1937 Ghorband 8,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen is of opinion that Blyth's Reed Warbler was breeding in both the above localities. At Kunduz it was common on the banks of the Khanabad River in bushes but not in reeds.

Wardlaw-Ramsay's specimen collected at Byan Khel 7,000 ft. on 13 May was one of a couple seen, doubtless on passage.

### *Agrobates galactotes familiaris* (Ménétries).

Specimens collected.—♂ 24 April 1881 (Swinhoe); 3 ♂ 1 ♀ 12-28 April 1885 Tirphul, ♂ 1 May 1885 Kambas (Aitcheson); sex? 22 April Kila Wali, sex? 18 May Darbund-i-Kil Rekhta (Yate); ♀ 22 April 1905 Kuhak (Cumming); ♀ 4 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Grey-backed Warbler is a very common summer visitor to the tamarisk groves by the sides of streams on the Hari-Rud, where Aitcheson considered its song almost equalled that of the Nightingale. Yate also met it on the Murghab. Cumming found it equally common on the banks of the Rud-i-Seistan at Kuhak where he obtained c/5 eggs on 11 May. St. John considered it tolerably common in the Kandahar area. Yet curiously enough Meinertzhagen only met with two individuals—the above female, which was actually singing on a mud wall surrounding crops when shot, and a second specimen shot between Baghlan and Khanabad about 1,700 ft. on 19 April.

**Luscinola melanopogon mimica** Madarász.

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 20 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ 7 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen says that the Moustached Sedge-Warbler was found in the marshes of Danaghori where a few were seen and the distinctive song was often heard in the dense reed-brakes. The organs of the bird shot suggested breeding.

St. John's pair collected at Kandahar on 20 April may have been on passage.

**Locustella naevia mongolica** Sushkin.

Specimen collected.—♂ 23 April 1937 Bamian (Meinertzhagen).

**Locustella naevia staminea** Seebohn.

Specimens collected.—4 ♂ 20-24 April 1937. Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen). 'These birds appeared during the rush of migrants at Bamian in April but never more than one a day. In fact for seven consecutive days we saw a single bird on each occasion' (Meinertzhagen). These are the only records of the Grasshopper Warbler in Afghanistan.

**Locustella certhiola centralasiæ** Sushkin.

Specimen collected.—♂ 19 April 1937 Bamian (Meinertzhagen).

**Locustella certhiola rubescens** Blyth.

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 24-25 April 1937 Bamian (Meinertzhagen).

All these specimens of the genus *Locustella* were compared and identified by Meinertzhagen in the Academy of Sciences at Leningrad. They provide the only records for Afghanistan.

**Cettia cetti cettioides** Hume.

Specimens collected.—♂ 13 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 sex? 20-22 Feb. Chahar Shamba (Yate).

These 3 specimens of Cetti's Bush-Warbler provide the only records for Afghanistan. Swinhoe's bird was shot in the ditch full of rank growth just outside the city wall.

**Scotocerca inquieta striata** (Brooks).

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 11-19 April 1885 Tirphul (Aitcheson); ♂ 6 April Kabul 6,000 ft., ♂ 29 April Doab 6,000 ft., 2 ♀ 16 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Streaked Scrub-Warbler seems to be rare and local in Afghanistan. In addition to the localities suggested by the above records St. John met it at Kandahar. One of the females collected at Haibak by Meinertzhagen on 16 May contained a soft egg. A resident species.

**Hippolais caligata caligata** (Licht).

Specimen collected.—♂ 30 August 1933 Kabul 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

The above specimen was no doubt on passage, St. John states that the Booted Tree-Warbler is common in suitable localities in the Kandahar area; but the only specimen of his which I can trace in the British Museum, namely ♂ 18-6-1880 Kandahar, is so damaged as to be quite unrecognisable, as between the two races.

***Hippolais calligata rama* (Sykes).**

Specimens collected.—♀ 23 June 1875 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ 1 May 1881 Gungazai (Swinhoe); 2 sex? 22 April-13 May Kila Wali, sex? 18 May Darband-i-Kil Rekhta (Yate); ♂ 2 May 1937 Doshi 2,750 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Sykes' Tree-Warbler is probably a summer visitor to the greater part of Afghanistan. Meinertzhagen says that it was breeding at Doshi where it was fairly common in the fruit trees, especially the mulberry. Yates' specimens from Murghab in April and May were no doubt also on their breeding ground. Swinhoe obtained his specimen at Gungazai on 1st May from a pair which had an unfinished nest in the riverbed. St. John states that this species is not uncommon all over the Kandahar area. This may be the bird which Cumming (p. 687) records under the name of *Hippolais obsolcta* as frequently seen in the low bushes of the 'dasht' near the Rud-i-Seistan. He shot specimens in March and April near Kubak but I have been unable to trace them.

***Hippolais languida* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg).**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 2 ♀ 3 May 1885 between Kambao and Shore Kalgagai (Aitcheson).

These specimens provide the only record of Upcher's Warbler in Afghanistan.

***Hippolais palida elæica* (Lindermayer).**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? 2 June Jalaiar, Maimanah (Yate); ♂ 12 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen says that the Olivaceous Warbler was clearly breeding at Haibak, where a few pairs were seen, and this no doubt was also the case at Jalaiar. Presumably a summer visitor only.

***Sylvia nisoria* (Bechst.).**

Specimens collected.—♀ 14 May 1885 Kumani-bhest, Hari-Rud (Aitcheson); ♂ 7 May 1937 Danaghor 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Status uncertain. Aitcheson has left no details of his bird and Meinertzhagen says that his specimen was the only one observed. It was not singing but skulking in a small willow by the banks of a dry water-cut. The organs were not sufficiently enlarged for breeding.

***Sylvia mystacea* Ménétries.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 23 March 1885 Gulran (Aitcheson); sex? 22 April Kila Wali, sex? 2 June Jalaiar (Yate); 21 March 1905 Kuhak (Cumming).

There are no other records of Ménétries' Warbler in Afghanistan. Cumming found this species (which he recorded under the name of *Sylvia jerdoni*) fairly common in the tamarisk jungles fringing the Helmund. By the courtesy of Dr. Bains Prashad I have been able to examine Cumming's specimen in the Indian Museum and confirm its real identity.

***Sylvia nana nana* (Hemprich and Ehrenberg).**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 12 March, ♂ 19 March 1885 Gulran, ♂ 11 April 1885 Tirphul (Aitcheson).

The only records of the Desert Warbler in Afghanistan.

***Sylvia hortensis crasirotris* Cretzschmar.**

Specimens collected.—♀ 1 May 1885 Kambao, ♂ 14 May 1885 Nihal-Shani (Aitcheson); 2 ♀ 12 April Ghorband 6,500 ft., ♂ ♀ 23-24 April 1937 Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen says that his specimens of the Orphean Warbler were on passage and were all he saw except for a male at Doab on 28 April which was in some scrub on a steep hillside and may have been in its breeding quarters. Aitcheson's specimens were also probably on their breeding ground.

I have seen none of the above specimens and take the subspecific identification from Meinertzhagen.

***Sylvia althœa* Hume.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 2 May 1879, ♂ 26 May 1879, ♂ 27 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 18 June 1933 Chahiltan 5,900 ft. (Maconachie).

Hume's Whitethroat was recorded under the name of *Sylvia affinis* by Wardlaw-Ramsay as breeding in large numbers in the Hariab Valley about Byan Khel 7,000 ft. in the latter end of May. It arrived after the beginning of the month. Maconachie's specimen from Chahiltan also appears from the date and its enlarged organs to have been on its breeding ground.

***Sylvia curruca minula* Hume.**

Specimens collected.—♀ 16 April 1881 (Swinhoe) ♀ 19 March Gulran, 3 ♂ 6-12 April Tirphul; ♀ 26 April Khusan, ♀ 26 April 1885 Tirphul (Aitcheson); sex? 13 March Maruchak (Yate); ♂ 21 April 1937 Bamian (Meinertzhagen).

The above specimens furnish the whole of our information about the Lesser Whitethroat in Afghanistan.

***Sylvia curruca blythi* Ticehurst & Whistler.**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? 28 April—I May Chahar Shamba (Yate); sex? 30 April 1933 Ghorband Valley 5,000 ft., ♂ 24 Sept. 1933 Paghman 7,500 ft.; 2 ♀ 13 May 1934 Chahiltan 5,900 ft., sex? 27 May 1934 Baqrami 5,700 ft., sex? 22 Sept. 1936 Ashraf Valley 4,200 ft. (Maconachie); ♀ 20-24 April 1937 Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen says that the Lesser Whitethroat was common in the Ghorband Valley between 7,500 ft. and 8,500 ft. in mid-April and at Bamian on 21 April. On the 22nd prodigious numbers arrived which had all gone again on 24 April. A single bird was subsequently observed at Doab 5,000 ft. on 29 April. The other specimens enumerated above were also presumably on passage.

St. John states that he obtained a specimen at Kandahar which was identified by Hume but I have been unable to find this skin in the British Museum.

***Sylvia curruca halimodendri* Sushkin.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 15 April Ghorband 6,500 ft., 3 ♂ 23 April Bamian 8,500 ft., 2 ♂ 29 April Doab 5,000 (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen says that the above birds were all on passage.

**[*Phylloscopus tytleri* Brooks.**

There seems to be no authority for the statement in the *New Fauna* (vol. ii, p. 456) that Tytler's Willow-wren occurs in Afghanistan].

***Phylloscopus collybita tristis* Blyth.**

Specimens collected.—Sex? Pashat (Griffith); ♀ 26 April 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♀ 28 January, 3 ♂ 30 March, ♂ 31 March, ♂ 27 December 1879 Kandahar, sex? 5 Oct. 1879 Khelat-i-Ghilzai (St. John); ♂ 3 January, ♂ 2 April 1881, Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ October 1884, banks of R. Helmund, ♂ 12 April, ♀ 26 April 1885 Khusan (Aitcheson); ♂ 17 April Kabul, sex? 5 April Baqrami, ♂ ? 2 December 1933 Chahiltan 5,900 ft., sex? 14 March Chaharasia 5,700 ft., sex? 19 March Chahiltan 5,900 ft., ♂ 2 May 1934 Kabul 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 7 April Kabul 6,000 ft., ♂ 9 April Paghman 8,000 ft., sex? 15 April Ghorband 6,500 ft., ♂ 2 May Doshi 2,750 ft., ♂ 7 May 1937 Danaghor 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

At Kandahar the Siberian Chiffchaff is a common winter visitor according to St. John and Swinhoe. Meinertzhagen says it was quite common round Kabul in early April and later on he found it everywhere and at almost all elevations but not at Haibak or Kunduz. These birds were presumably on passage.

***Phylloscopus collybita sindianus* Brooks**

Specimen collected.—♂ 15 April Ghorband 6,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Ticehurst (*Systematic Review of the Genus Phylloscopus*, p. 57) considers that this is probably the breeding form of N. Afghanistan where Meinertzhagen flushed a Chiffchaff from an empty nest in the Ghorband Valley on 24 May. Ticehurst also records a winter specimen from Helmund on the border of S. Afghanistan and Persia.

***Phylloscopus griseolus* Blyth.**

Specimen collected.—♂ 16 May, ♂ 28 June 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); 4 ♂ 17-18 April Ghorband 8,200 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Wardlaw-Ramsay states that the Olivaceous Willow-Warbler was common and breeding in May and June in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. Whitehead says that it nests freely on parts of the Safed Koh just over the border.

Meinertzhagen says.—'Fairly common in the Ghorband Valley in mid-April, almost always found on rock-faces or walls and shy. Also seen at Bamian at 9,000 ft. on rocks on 20 April and a good many at Doab, always on rocks at considerable elevations, at 7,000 ft. and above, at the end of April.'

***Phylloscopus schwarzi* (Radde).**

Specimen collected.—♂ 6 May 1937 Danaghor (Meinertzhagen).  
Shot in reeds. The only record of Radde's Bush-Warbler in Afghanistan.

***Phylloscopus trochiloides nitidus* Blyth.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 18 April, ♂ 30 October 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ 26 April Akrohart, sex? 2 May 1937 Doshi 2,750 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

A specimen of the Green Willow-Warbler was procured by Aitcheson somewhere in Northern Afghanistan but unfortunately the data was lost. In addition to the above specimens obtained Meinertzhagen thought he saw a pair in the Doab orchards on 29 April and a few at Haibak on 12 May in the gardens. These records all doubtless refer to passage birds.

***Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* Blyth.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 30 April 1933 Ghorband Valley 5,000 ft. ♂ 20 April 1934 Kabul (Maconachie).

The two specimens of the Greenish Willow-Warbler collected by Maconachie provide the only information about this species in Afghanistan.

***Phylloscopus inornatus humei* (Brooks).**

Specimens collected.—Sex? Pashat (Griffith); 2 sex? 14-23 April Panjab, Wakhani (Biddulph).

These are the only records of Hume's Willow-Wren for Afghanistan but Whitehead says it breeds in large numbers on the Safed Koh from 7,000 ft. to 4,000 ft. Unfortunately he preserved no specimens in verification.

***Phylloscopus subviridis* (Brooks).**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 24 April, ♂ 5 May, ♀ 20 May, ♂ 21 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

Wardlaw-Ramsay found Brooks's Willow-Wren common in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. and it was evidently breeding there as the males had enlarged testes and a female shot on 20 May contained eggs ready for laying. Whitehead says that it nests freely on the Safed Koh from 7,000-9,000 ft.

***Phylloscopus neglectus neglectus* Hume.**

St. John states that he obtained a specimen of the Plain Brown Willow-Wren at Kandahar. I have not traced the skin in the British Museum but the identification was confirmed by Hume.

***Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis* (Blyth).**

Specimens collected.—sex? 28 June 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

This specimen—which had been labelled *viridanus* and *plumbcitarus*—shows that the Large Crowned Willow-Wren breeds on the Afghan side of the boundary of the Safed Koh where Whitehead says it is the commonest member of the genus breeding from 6,000-10,000 ft.

Koelz has named a new race *Phylloscopus occipitalis kail* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington col. 52 (5 June 1939) p. 71) from specimens taken by him at Kail, Daulatshah, Gumandru, Sangleh and Iskarzir in Northern Afghanistan. The differences alleged are not however satisfactory.

[*Phylloscopus pulcher kangraë* Ticehurst.

I can find no authority for the statement in the *New Fauna* (vol. ii, p. 465) that the Orange-barred Willow-Wren occurs in Afghanistan.]

[*Phylloscopus magnirostris* Blyth.

Whitehead found the Large-billed Willow-Wren breeding on the lower slopes of the Safed Koh from 7,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. so it should occur just within our boundaries.]

[*Phylloscopus proregulus simlaensis* Ticehurst.

Whitehead found Pallas' Willow-Warbler in summer on the Safed Koh at 8,500 ft. so it should breed within the Afghan boundary.]

[*Scircercus xanthischistos albosuperciliaris* (Jerdon).

Recorded from Afghanistan in the *New Fauna* (vol. ii, p. 491) but I have seen no evidence that it occurs.]

[*Prinia gracilis lepida* Blyth.

Specimens collected.—♂ 2 October 1904 Kuhak (Cumming) ♂ 10 March 1896 Samuli 4,500 ft. (Maynard).

Cumming found the Streaked Wren-Warbler fairly common in the tamarisk jungles of Seistan and found a nest with 4 eggs at Kuhak on 29 March 1904. Maynard collected a bird at Samuli on the Afghan-Baluch frontier on 10 March 1896. A resident species.

[*Regulus regulis himalayensis* Jerdon.

According to Whitehead the Goldcrest is fairly numerous in summer amongst the firs and deodars of the Safed Koh from 8,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. so it must occur on the Afghan side of the border. I presume these birds belong to the Himalayan race.]

[*Regulus regulis tristis* Pleske.

Specimens collected.—sex? 21 November, sex? 2 December 1933 Chabiltan 5,900 ft. (Maconachie).

These specimens provide the only records of this race of the Goldcrest in Afghanistan. It is presumably a winter visitor only.

[*Cephalopyrus flammeiceps* (Burton).

I can find no authority for the statement in the *New Fauna* (vol. ii, p. 545) that the Fire-cap occurs in Afghanistan.]

[*Pastor roseus* (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ Otupore, 2 sex? Kabul (Griffith); ♂ ♀ 24 April, 18 July 1879 Kandahar (St. John); 3 ♂ 2 ♀ 13 April 1885 Tirphul (Aitcheson); 2 sex? 14 April Karawal Khana (Yare); ♂ 6 July 1933 Tala 3,700 ft. (Maconachie); 4 ♂ 20 April 1937 Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Rosy Pastor appears to be only a passage migrant through Afghanistan on its way to and from India. In earlier days observers in India thought—from the greatly enlarged testes of the males in spring and the early date on which old and young birds returned to India—that there must be some breeding place in Afghanistan but there seems no reason now to believe that this is the case.

On the autumn passage this is one of the earliest migrants to arrive. Maconachie's specimen shot at Tala on 6 July furnishes the earliest date but we have no other information about this passage except St. John's statement that at Kandahar the return swarms begin to make their appearance early in August at latest and have not entirely passed until the beginning of October.

In the spring the first returning flocks reach Kandahar towards the end of March, according to Swinhoe, but more usually early in April, according to

St. John. There is no other information about S. Afghanistan and it may well be that the flocks which pass through Kandahar strike in a north-westerly direction to avoid the deserts around the Helmund. The birds arrive in Afghanistan on a broad front, however, as whilst they are in Kandahar others pour through the country about Kabul and north of the Hindu Kush.

Meinertzhagen first met with 4 males in full breeding dress at Bamian on 20 April. After this he met further stragglers on 24 April at Bamian, and on the 27 and 28th April at Doab. Then at Doshi on 1st and 3rd May some large flocks were seen travelling. He met the main migration, however, at Danaghorī between the 4th and 10th of May and estimated that there must have been close on half a million on the Danaghorī Plains during the first week of May. Many birds roosted in the reed beds. On the 11th May there were many large flocks passing north towards Haibak and for the following week many large packs were seen at Haibak and again at Kunduz. On the return journey Meinertzhagen saw a few at Doshi on 22 May and a few near Kabul on 26 May. In describing this interesting experience he gives the direction in which the flocks were travelling as north and north-west.

As Aitcheson occasionally met huge flocks over the whole of Badghis and the Hari-Rud Valley one is justified in assuming that the Pastor traverses the whole of Afghanistan north of the Hindu Kush. Aitcheson collected 5 specimens at Tirphul on 13 April which is rather earlier than Meinertzhagen's experiences.

It is perhaps worth emphasising the fact that the Rosy Pastor affords one of the most remarkable east to west migrations that is known. It leaves India on the restricted front between the foot of the Himalayas and Central Baluchistan, travels over the high ground of Northern Baluchistan, Central and Northern Afghanistan and Persian Khorasan to the S.-E. corner of the Caspian, a route which allows it to miss the wide deserts and low-lying plains of S.-E. Afghanistan and Central and Southern Persia where such vast numbers of a voracious species would be hard put to it to procure sufficient food.

According to Meinertzhagen the Afghans regard the Pastor as beneficial to agriculture and do not molest it in spite of the damage which it does to the ripe mulberries in spring.

#### **Acridotheres tristis tristis** (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ Pashat sex? Jalalabad (Griffith); ♂ 15 August 1933 Kabul (Maconachie); ♂ 8 May 1937 Danaghorī 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Common Mynah occurs sparingly round villages between the Khyber Pass, Jalalabad and Kabul and is resident. Near Kabul Meinertzhagen found them quite at home in snow in early April and some were seen at 8,500 ft. in the Paghman Valley on 27 May and at Charikar on 26 May. At Danaghorī he met but a single pair in early April (the male of which was secured and seemed rather pale compared with Punjab birds) but at Haibak and Kunduz they were more common and breeding in mid-May.

#### **Acridotheres ginginianus** (Latham).

Specimen collected.—sex? Kandahar (Griffith).

This Griffith specimen in the British Museum provides the only record of the Bank Mynah in Afghanistan, but I think the record may be accepted, as a straggler, for the species occurs in the Peshawar, Kohat and Bannu districts.

#### **Temenuchus pagodarum** (Gmelin).

Specimens collected.—Juv. Kabul: sex? Baber's garden, Kabul (Griffith); ♀ 4 June 1933 Kabul (Maconachie).

Meinertzhagen saw a few Brahminy Mynahs in the gardens of Jalalabad on 31 May. Here and at Kabul it is doubtless a summer visitor, as in Gilgit. Wardlaw-Ramsay saw a flock in the Hariab Valley at 7,000 ft. in some willow trees which were doubtless on passage, as he suggests, for he never saw them again. Koelz has given the name *T. p. afghanorum* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 52 (5 June 1939) p. 73) to Afghan birds on the strength of specimens he collected at Ta'an, Manakhal and Chandau, but I could not separate Maconachie's bird from an Indian series.

**[*Sturnus vulgaris humii* Brooks.**

Said in the *New Fauna* (vol. iii, p. 32) to breed in Afghanistan, but I have seen no evidence to this effect.]

***Sturnus vulgaris porphyronotus* Sharpe.**

Specimens collected.—sex? 20, October 1839 Kabul, sex? 1840 Jalalabad (Griffith).

***Sturnus vulgaris poltaratzskyi* Finsch.**

Specimens collected.—sex? Kandahar (Griffith); 2 November 1933 Vagrami 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

***Sturnus vulgaris nobilior* Hume.**

Specimens collected.—sex? Arghundab (Griffith); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 12-13 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen records that *S. v. nobilior* (of which the type locality is Kandahar) was found breeding at Haibak and Kunduz but not elsewhere and that it was not common. In Haibak he did not see more than a few pairs in a week and they appeared to have young on 11 May. At Kunduz they had clamouring young on 20 May. At Kunduz the only nests seen were high up in plane trees but at Haibak there were nests in semi-ruined houses as well as in holes in mulberry trees.

Owing to the war I have been unable to examine the specimens of starlings from Afghanistan in the British Museum. It is evident, however, from Hutton, Swinhoe and St. John, Aitchison, Cumming and Annandale that the starling in various races is an abundant winter visitor and passage migrant throughout the greater part of Afghanistan. According to Hutton some race breeds at Kandahar in April and May but Swinhoe and St. John do not confirm this.

***Oriolus oriolus kundoo* Sykes.**

Specimens collected.—sex? Pashat (Griffith); ♀ 5 June 1933 Kabul (Maconachie); 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 7-9 May 1937 Danaghori (Meinertzhagen).

The Golden Oriole is a summer visitor to Afghanistan but it has so far only been recorded in the eastern half of the country.

Meinertzhagen first met with it on the 7th May at Danaghori where the first pair arrived on the previous night. By 9 May they were fairly common, a pair being found in most orchards. At Doshi, Haibak and Kunduz they were also fairly common and were breeding and on the return journey they were found to be well distributed in the Ghorbund and Paghman valleys, and at Kabul and Jalalabad.

In the Hamiab valley at 7,000-8,000 ft. Wardlaw-Ramsay considered the Golden Oriole extremely rare but at Kandahar according to St. John, it is abundant in the orchards and plantations. Here too it arrives about the beginning of May.

**[*Uroloncha malabarica* (Linn).**

In the *New Fauna* (vol. iii, p. 90) the White-throated Munia is stated to occur in Afghanistan but I have found no evidence to that effect.]

***Coccothraustes coccothraustes humii* Sharpe.**

A specimen of the Hawfinch was evidently obtained by Griffith on 21 April 1839 at the 'Khossik Pass', as appears from a MSS. list of birds forwarded to the British Museum by the ship *Worcester*, but the specimen can no longer be traced. Whitehead met with a party on 5 May at 9,000 ft. on the Peiwar Spur and the bird is well known to be a winter visitor to Attock, Rawalpindi and the Kala Chitta range and the Kohat district. It must therefore occur fairly commonly somewhere in Afghanistan but the breeding range has not so far been discovered.

***Perissospiza icterioides* (Vigors).**

Specimen collected.—♂ 20 June 1879. Peiwar Kotal (Wardlaw-Ramsay).

Whitehead found the Black and Yellow Grosbeak breeding commonly on the slopes of the Safed Koh from 7,000-11,000 ft. and Wardlaw-Ramsay's



specimen suggests that this is doubtless also the case on the Afghan side of the boundary.

***Mycerobas carnipis speculigera* Brandt.**

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 30 April 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay). These specimens were collected by Wardlaw-Ramsay in the pine forest and here again no doubt the Afghan status of the species is illuminated by the fact that Whitehead found it breeding on the Safed Koh from 8,000-12,000 ft. on the Kurram side.

[***Mycerobas melanoxanthus* (Hodgson).**

There appears to be no evidence to support the statement in the *New Fauna*, (vol. iii, p. 106) that the Spotted-winged Grosbeak occurs in Afghanistan].

[***Loxia curvirostris* Linnaeus.**

Our only information about the Crossbill is contained in Blyth's statement (apud Hutton, p. 779) that he had seen skins as well as a living specimen from Afghanistan. Unfortunately further details are lacking].

[***Carpodacus thura blythi* (Biddulph).**

The White-browed Rose-Finch must breed in Afghanistan as Whitehead found it not uncommon on the Safed Koh in summer from 8,000-11,000 ft. Young were on the wing by the 29 June].

***Carpodacus rhodochlamys grandis* Blyth.**

Specimens collected.—♂ Pashat (Griffith); ♂ 20 June 1879 Peiwar Kotal (Waruiaw-Ramsay).

Apart from the specimen collected by Griffith and now in the British Museum, Wardlaw-Ramsay shot the male of a pair of Red-mantled Rose-finches in pine forest at 8,000 ft. on the Peiwar range. They were doubtless breeding there as Whitehead found them on the Safed Koh in July between 10,000 ft. and 11,000 ft.

***Carpodacus erythrurus roseatus* (Blyth).**

Specimens collected.—♂ Afghanistan (Griffith); ♂ 24 June Shaluzan, ♂ 28 June 1879 Byan Khel (Waruiaw-Ramsay); 4 ♂ 1 ♀ 9-14 April Kandahar, ♀ 3 May 1881 Syed Yarroo (Swinhoe); 4 ♂ 16-26 April Khusan, ♀ 26 April Tomam-Agha, ♀ 18 May, 1885 Simkoh Badghis (Aitcheson); 2 ♂ 17 April Ghorband 8,200 ft., 3 ♂ 23 April Bamian 8,500 ft., ♂ 28 April Doab 5,000 ft., ♀ 18 May Baghlan 2,000 ft., ♀ 13 May Haibak 3,000 ft., 2 ♂ 24 May Ghorband 8,300 ft., ♂ 25 May 1937 Shibar Pass 9,800 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Common Rosefinch is a summer visitor to Northern Afghanistan, Meinertzhagen met with the first arrivals, two males, at Ghorband on 17 April and after that date he saw them frequently at every camp down to the Oxus Valley at Haibak and Kunduz. As Aitcheson found them very common at Kusan in April (his first specimen was obtained on the 16th) it seems probable that this species breeds throughout the whole of Northern Afghanistan above the Hindu Kush. As it breeds on the Safed Koh from 6,500 ft. to 8,500 ft. on the Kurram side of the boundary it is also doubtless a breeding bird on the same range in Afghan territory but in the Hariab Valley Wardlaw-Ramsay only seems to have met with it on passage as he saw small parties there occasionally in May and the early part of June.

At Kandahar St. John says quite definitely that it is a passage migrant both in spring and autumn and on the spring passage Swinhoe saw the first flock on 9 April.

Meinertzhagen attributes his series of breeding birds to the race *kubanensis* but Ticehurst has given reasons (*J.B.N.H.S.*, xxxii, 345) for not accepting this intermediate race and with them I am in agreement.

***Carpodacus rubicillus severtzovi* Sharpe.**

Specimens collected.—sex? 13 April 1874, ♂ 19 April 1874 Panjah (Biddulph). Colonel Biddulph states that Severtzov's Rosefinch was common in Wakhan at 9,000 ft. on both his journeys through that tract.

Koelz obtained a pair of these finches to which he gave the name *Erythrina rubicilla diabolica* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 52 [5 June 1939] p. 75) at Sanglech on 27 July 1937. He describes it as intermediate between typical *rubicillus* and *severtzovi*.

***Carpodacus synoica sálimalii* Meinertzhagen.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 19 April Shibar Pass 8,000 ft., 7 ♂ 4 ♀ 22-23 April Bamian 8,500 ft. 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 26 April 1937 Akrobat 9,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

This new race of the Sinai Rose-finch was one of the great discoveries of Meinertzhagen's journey to Afghanistan. It was first seen at the western foot of the Shibar Pass at a spot where the pink sandstone of the Bamian Valley first shows itself. To quote his graphic words.—'The rose-red rock reminded me of Petra and the Sinai Rose-finch, on which my mind was dwelling, when Sálím Ali drew my attention to a pink bird sitting on a stone wall. That was our first introduction. At Bamian they were not uncommon in mixed parties, sometimes with *Petronia*, in bare rocky valleys and often sitting on bare earth cliffs, flying out to feed on early crops in the valley. The blending of the colour of both male and female, with surrounding rocks were perfect and without movement detection would be most difficult. Birds were feeding on newly-sown grain.'

'In the Akrobat Pass birds were associating with *Passer domesticus* in similar bare rocky valleys and slopes. They were also observed up to 11,000 ft. among snow in the hills north of Bamian.'

This species must certainly be resident in this area.

***Bucanetes githagineus crassirostris* (Blyth).**

Specimens collected.—♂ Kandahar (Hutton); ♀ 4 Oct. 1879 Kelat-i-Ghilzai (St. John); ♀ 3 February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 20 April Kabul, ♀ 20 June Ghazni road, 2 ♂ adult 2 juvs. 1 July 1934 Chakri Minar 8,200 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 2 ♀ 15 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

These specimens provide the only records of the Trumpeter Bullfinch in Afghanistan but the country is eminently suited to its habits and the bird itself is very easy to overlook so it is probably commoner and more widely spread than these records suggest. Meinertzhagen found them breeding at Haibak in desolate gorges using holes in the rock-faces and Maconachie's two juveniles from Chakri Minar were doubtless hatched in that neighbourhood.

***Bucanetes mongolicus* (Swinhoe).**

Specimens collected.—2 ♀ 20 April 1874 Panjah (Biddulph).

Biddulph states that the Mongolian Desert Finch was very common in Wakhan in April.

***Chloris chloris smithæ* Koelz.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 2 ♀ 1 December 1937 Kalkh (Koelz.)

The above specimens on which Koelz based his new form *smithæ* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 52 [5 June 1939] p. 74) provide the only records of the Greenfinch in Afghanistan.

***Rhodospiza obsoleta* (Lichtenstein).**

Specimen collected.—♂ 3 October 1879 Khelat-i-Ghilzai (St. John); ♂ Dec. 1880, ♂ 23 January, ♂ 2 February, ♂ 30 March, ♂ 31 March ♂ 1 April 1881 (Swinhoe); ♀ 16 April 1885 Khusan (Aitcheson); 2 sex? 27 March Khwaja Gogirdak (Yate).

The above records provide the only information about the status of Lichtenstein's Desert Finch beyond the fact that St. John and Swinhoe considered it a winter visitor to the gardens of Kandahar where it was often in their time netted and brought in for sale. Swinhoe says it was not observed there later than 1st April.

***Rhodopechys sanguinea sanguinea* (Gould.).**

Specimens collected.—♂ Pashat (Griffith); 3 ♂ 9 sex? 14-25 April 1874 Panjah (Biddulph); ♂ 24 May Ghorband 8,300 ft., 4 ♂ 25 May 1937 Shibar Pass 9,000-9,800 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

According to Horsfield and Moore (vol. ii, p. 461) Griffith observed the Crimson-winged Finch at Pashat in small flocks. Biddulph's note on his specimens is as follows:—'We met with this only at Panjah in Wakkan, in April—and there we only saw one large flock which used to come every morning and settle on some bare ground near our camp, until we had shot most of them. The elevation of the place at which we shot them was 9,000 ft.'

Meinertzhagen only met with the bird on the Shbar Pass and in the Ghorband Valley. Although they were often in small parties of five and six, their organs showed that they were ready to breed.

#### *Carduelis caniceps paropansis* Kollibay.

Specimens collected.—sex? Kabul (Griffith); ♂ 21 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 24 Nov. 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ 1 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? March Andkhui (Yate); ♂ juv. 18 June 1933, Chanihan 5,900 ft. (Maconachie); 2 ♂ 7 April Kabul, (Meinertzhagen); 2 ♂ 3 ♀ 22 April Bamian, ♂ 24 May 1937 Ghorband (Meinertzhagen).

The Goldfinch is apparently not a common bird in Afghanistan, except on the eastern border where Wardlaw-Ramsay found it not uncommon in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. and noted it as associating with Serins; and at Kandahar where according to Hutton and St. John it is common in winter and spring but does not breed in the neighbourhood.

From the rest of the country it has only been recorded from the country round Kabul where Griffith obtained it and Meinertzhagen met with a flock near snow, 10 miles south of the town, on April 7th and at Chahitan 7 miles S.-W. of Kabul where Maconachie obtained a young bird on 18 June which must surely have been bred in the neighbourhood; from Bamian where Meinertzhagen met a large flock on 22 April feeding on bare hill slopes and roosting in poplars; from the Ghorband Valley where Meinertzhagen found a few pairs breeding in late May; and finally from Andkhui in the Oxus Valley where Yate obtained a bird in March.

Some birds doubtless breed on the Safed Koh above the Hariab Valley and these may perhaps belong to the typical race. Meinertzhagen attributes 8 of his specimens to the race *paropansis*. I had previously examined five of the other specimens listed and attributed them to the same race on their length of bill (18.5 m.m.) though I am not quite satisfied that it is worth separation from *caniceps*. The Goldfinch is a very favourite cage bird with the Afghan.

#### *Carduelis caniceps subulata* (Gloger).

Specimen collected.—♂ 22 April 1937 Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen). Meinertzhagen attributes to this form one specimen shot from the flock of the previous race which he met at Bamian. It is slightly larger (wing 85 mm.) and paler than the other birds.

#### [*Callacanthis burtoni* (Gould).

Whitehead found the Red-browed Finch not uncommon in summer on the Safed Koh from 8,000-9,000 ft. so it must occur within the boundaries of Afghanistan.].

#### *Acanthis flavirostris* subsp.?

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 4 unsexed 24 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph); ♂ ♀ 8 April Paghman 8,000 ft. 4 ♂ 3 ♀ 24 April Ghorband 8,300 ft., 3 ♂ 2 ♀ 25 April Shbar Pass 9,000 ft., ♀ 29 May 1937 Unai Pass 12,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Biddulph found the Twite particularly common, generally in small dispersed parties, at Panjah on 24th April 1874 but this series I have not seen.

Meinertzhagen also obtained Twites in Afghanistan but his series is too worn to be identified with certainty though they agree with *korejewi* in similar plumage. He says 'Occasional flocks among the snowfields in the Paghman Valley in early April but very shy. Not met with again until we crossed the Shbar Pass on 23 May when we found them abundant, though not yet breeding. They were still in small mixed flocks. In the Ghorband Valley between 8,400 ft. and 10,000 ft. the same remarks apply for the last week in May.

**Acanthis cannabina fringillirotris** (Bp. and Schleg).

Horsfield and Moore (Cat. Ind. Mus. ii, p. 496) list a male linnet from Afghanistan in the Griffith collection and the Worcester MSS. list mentions a specimen as collected by Capt. Hay.

**Serinus pusillus** (Pallas).

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 1 ♀ Pashat (Griffith); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ Kandahar (Hutton); ♂ 25 April 1874 Panjah (Jordan); ♂ ♀ 6 November 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 10 April 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 23 July 1933, Khinjan Pass 8,800 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 12 April Paghman 8,000 ft., 1 ♂ 2 ♀ 28 April 1937 Doab 5,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Gold-fronted Finch certainly breeds along the eastern border of Afghanistan as Wardlaw-Ramsay found it plentiful in the Hariab district in flocks, until the early part of June when it commenced to breed. He found a nest with one egg on the Peiwar range and later Whitehead found it fairly common in the same area in summer between 8,000 ft. and 9,000 ft. Maconachie's July specimen from the Khinjan Pass suggests that it may also breed in the mountains round Kabul.

Out of the breeding season it is doubtless not uncommon in a wider area. Griffith obtained specimens at Pashat and noted it in his journal as seen at Bharawal on 7 March 1840. He says that it was found in flocks in cultivation feeding on thistles. Meinertzhagen found a few small parties in the Paghman Valley in early April at about 8,200 ft. and a flock of 10 birds feeding on seeds of *Sisymbrium* at Doab on 28 April.

Swinhoe's Kandahar specimen was a caged bird, evidently freshly caught, and he was informed by the bird-catchers that it occurred in flocks from the middle of April to the middle of September, but as St. John points out, the bird can hardly breed about Kandahar and these dates—if based on anything but imagination on the part of the bird-catchers—must refer to passage movements. Hutton's specimens probably also came from the bird-catchers.

**Fringilla montifringilla** Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ Afghanistan, ♀ Otipore ♀ Pashat (Griffith); ♂ 18 April 1874 Panjah (Biddulph); ♂ 8 January 1880 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ ♀ 21 November, ♀ 2 December, ♀ 9 December 1933 Chahiltan 5,900 ft. (Maconachie).

In addition to the above specimens, Meinertzhagen records seeing a small flock of Bramble-Finches at Kabul 5,800 ft. on 6 April and another large flock migrating north at 11 a.m. on 24 April at Bamian 8,500 ft. Murray says that a Mr. Hutchings had four males and one female from Abdul Rahman and Mandi Hissar near Kandahar.

**Passer domesticus griseigularis** Sharpe.

Specimens collected.—♂ Afghanistan 2 ♀ Pushut, ♀ Dadur (Griffith); ♂ 9 May 1870 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 11 April, ♂ 27 April 1870 Kandahar (St. John); 2 ♂ 6 April, 2 ♂ 8 April, ♂ 9 April, 4 ♂ 3 ♀ 16 April 1881 (Swinhoe); 4 ♂ 15 April Karawal Khana (Yate); 3 ♂ 16 April Khusun; 9 ♀ 20 April ♀ 25 April 1885 Tirpbul (Aitcheson); ♀ 9 August 1923 Kabul (Maconachie); 8 ♂ 3 ♀ 23-26 April Bamian 8,500 ft., ♂ 1 May Barfak 2,500 ft., ♂ 5 May Danaghori 2,300 ft., 2 ♂ 21 May 1937 Kunduz 1,800 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The House-Sparrow is a very numerous summer visitor to both Northern and Southern Afghanistan arriving in April and leaving again in August and September. It is also an abundant passage migrant. In Northern Afghanistan Meinertzhagen found them breeding in colonies mostly in holes in earth banks, sometimes in company with Bee-eaters and Rollers. On passage they pay little or no attention to houses and are very much birds of the open fields, bare mountain slopes and buckthorn hedges. In Southern Afghanistan Swinhoe remarks that they do not associate with *Passer montanus* but both he and Wardlaw-Ramsay remark that the large flocks on passage contain a good proportion of *Passer hispaniolensis*.

Meinertzhagen calls his birds *Passer domesticus bactrianus*, and as he points out, correctly enough, this name (Zarudny and Kudaschew, 1916, type locality

Tashkent, Turkestan) antedates my *parkini* (1920—Vale of Kashmir) but I can see no difference in size or colour between birds from Turkestan and South Afghanistan. As one of Swinhoe's birds from Kandahar (♂ 9 April 1881 now in British Museum) was the type of *Passer griseigularis* Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii, p. 313 (1888), this name must stand for the large migratory House-Sparrow so common in Turkestan, Tibet, Afghanistan, Kashmir and other neighbouring areas which winters in parts of India.

***Gymnorhis xanthocollis transfuga* Hartert.**

Specimen collected.—♂ 13 May 1879 Kandahar (St. John).

This is the only record of the Yellow-throated Sparrow in Afghanistan unless Hutton's account of the Rock Sparrow as arriving at Kandahar in the latter end of April and departing in autumn and being far from common really refers to this species.

***Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus* Tschusi.**

Specimens collected.—♂ Pashat (Griffith); sex? April 1874 Panjah (Biddulph); ♂♂♀ May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); 5 ♂ 5 ♀ 6-16 April 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 27 October 1884 between De-Kamran and De-Doda, 1 ♂ 2 ♀ 29 November 1884 between Kar-o-bagh and Tut-i-chi (Aitcheson); sex? 10 March Kara Bel, sex? 10 March Yulla Chashma, 2 sex? 27 March Khwaja Gogirdak, 2 sex? 12 April Karawal Khana (Yate); 5 ♂ 2 ♀ 4-7 May 1937 Danaghorī 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

In Northern Afghanistan Aitcheson and Yate collected Spanish Sparrows (as listed above) in March-April and October-November. These birds may well have been on passage to and from their breeding quarters farther north as in the rest of Afghanistan (where it occurs) the status of the Spanish Sparrow appears to be that of a summer visitor. In the Oxus Valley Meinertzhagen first met with it at Danaghorī on 4 May and by 7 May their numbers had increased. They were equally common about Baghlan on 19 May and though breeding had not commenced it appeared likely that they were going to breed in the swamps of Danaghorī. Biddulph met them in Panjah in April.

Wardlaw-Ramsay found the species common in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. in May and June.

At Kandahar Hutton said it was a resident, breeding both in houses and trees but this was doubtless inaccurate as St. John and Swinhoe both say that it is a summer visitor, the latter adding that it arrived in large flocks with *Passer domesticus* in the early part of April, though the testes were not then nearly so developed as in the latter bird.

Both Meinertzhagen in Afghanistan and Magrath in Kohat remark on the association of flocks of Spanish Sparrows and Rosy Pastors on migration and Ticehurst and I found that the typical race in Algeria was similarly consorting with flocks of Starlings. About buildings the Spanish Sparrow in Afghanistan assort with both House and Tree Sparrows.

***Passer moabiticus yatei* Sharpe.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 27 October 1884 between De Kamran and De-Doda (Aitcheson); ♀ 13 March 1903 Nad-i-ali R. Helmund (Cumming).

The above male, the type, of Yate's Sparrow, is figured by Aitcheson (Plate vi, fig. 2). The bird was said by the discoverer to be then occurring in large flocks. Cumming's female (identified by Stuart Baker) furnishes the only other information about this species actually in Afghanistan, but it is doubtless commoner in South-west Afghanistan than this implies as Zarudny and Harms (J. f. Orn., 1912 p. 592) found it a most abundant breeding bird in the tamarisk jungles of the Helmund Delta on the Persian side of the boundary. They give a long account of the bird and its breeding and one of Zarudny's eggs is figured by Dresser in *Ibis* 1903, p. 405, pl. x.

***Passer montanus dilutus* Richmond.**

Specimens collected.—♀ May 1839 Kandahar, 2 sex? Bala Chughur Serai (Griffith); 2 ♂ 21 January, ♀ 20 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ ♀ 18 January 1881, ♀ 2 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 29 Jan. Chahar Shamba (Yate); ♂ 20 April 1905 Kuhak (Cumming); 2 ♂ 4 April Kabul 6,000 ft., 1 ♀

4 ♀ 16-18 April Ghorband 8,200 ft., ♂ 22 April 1937 Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Tree Sparrow is the common resident house sparrow of Afghanistan both in the North where Meinertzhagen found it all the localities he visited and in the South where both St. John and Swinhoe found it at Kandahar.

In the South-west Cumming says it was in every building in the Mission camp at Kuhak in April 1905 but he adds the somewhat surprising statement that it had disappeared in the following month.

Meinertzhagen first noted signs of breeding at Danaghori on 7 May.

***Passer rutilans cinnamomeus* (Gould).**

Specimens collected.—5 ♂ Otipore (Griffith).

Griffith's specimens of the Cinnamon Sparrow in the British Museum provide the only records for Afghanistan.

***Petronia petronia intermedia* Hartert.**

Specimens collected.—sex? December 1880, ♀ 13 January, ♀ 22 January, ♀ 15 February 1881, (Swinhoe); ♂ 19 April Shibar Pass 9,800 ft., 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 22 April Bamian 8,500, ♂ 28 April Doab 7,000 ft., 2 ♂ 15-16 May, 2 juv. 17 May Haibak 3,000 ft., 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 25 May 1937 Shibar Pass 9,800 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen who provides the whole of our information about this species in Northern Afghanistan first met with it singly on the flat tops of the Shibar Pass at 9,800 ft. on 19 April, when there was still much snow about. They were not uncommon in the desolate valleys, round Bamian, often associating with *Carpodacus synoica* where they were feeding on freshly sown wheat. At Doab they were met on the high tops, sometimes feeding among rocks, sometimes travelling about in small flocks. At Haibak they were breeding in holes and fissures on rock-faces, most of the young being out and about. At Kunduz they were breeding on 20 May on a rocky scarp some 10 miles west of the town. When Meinertzhagen recrossed the Shibar Pass on 25 May young were well on the wing with their parents.

At Kandahar Swinhoe considered the bird a winter visitor, not observed after the end of February. Hutton's account of the Rock Sparrow at Kandahar would seem more likely to refer in reality to the Yellow-throated Sparrow.

***Montifringilla nivalis alpicola* (Pallas).**

Specimens collected.—♀ Afghanistan (Griffith); ♀ 23 July Kinjan Pass 11,500 ft., juv. 9 Sept. 1933 Katakak 9,750 (Maconachie); 4 ♂ 2 ♀ 26 May Shibar Pass 9,800 ft., 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 29 May 1937 Unai Pass 12,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Whitehead came upon a small flock of finches which he attributed to *M. n. adamsi*, but which in the light of subsequent information may well have been *M. n. alpicola*, on a grassy knoll of the Safed Koh at 10,000 ft. on 2nd August. They were, however, rather wild and he was unable to secure a specimen.

With this exception the Snow-Finch is only known to occur in Afghanistan in the ranges of the Hindu Kush where it breeds and is doubtless resident, with altitudinal movements.

Meinertzhagen says that a small flock were seen at the edge of a large patch of snow in the Paghman Valley 8,600 ft. in early April and again on 24 April a flock was seen near snow at about 11,600 ft. when they were very shy. But it was not until he recrossed the Shibar Pass on 25 May that he found the birds on their breeding grounds among boulder-strewn tops and steep hillsides. The females had conspicuous incubation patches. He met them again in the Unai Pass at between 12,000-12,500 ft. on 29 May. He gives a good description of the display.

Maconachie's specimen from the Kinjan Pass was collected by Captain Fletcher who found the birds in flocks of four or five amongst patches of snow.

***Montifringilla theresæ* Meinertzhagen.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 19 April Shibar Pass 9,500 ft., ♂ 22 April Bamian 8,500 ft., 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 25 May Shibar Pass 9,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen's Mountain-Finch, the most interesting of his discoveries in Afghanistan, was first seen on the flat top of the Shibar Pass at 9,500 ft. on 19 April, where it was often in company with *Eremophila* and *Petronia*. It was usually singly or in pairs and on more open ground (less rocky and steep) than *nivalis*. At Bamian a small party was found feeding in freshly sown wheatfields. Meinertzhagen describes the general behaviour and display of the bird. It is certain to prove a resident species.

***Fringilauda nemoricola altaica* (Eversman).**

Specimens collected.—♀ Pushut (Griffith); 1 ♂ 4 sex? 14-24 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph).

Griffith's above specimen in the British Museum is presumably the same one mentioned in his Journal as having been obtained at Loonguzee in March.

Biddulph notes that Stoliczka's Mountain-Finch was common in Wakhan in April. It doubtless also occurs further south along the eastern border of Afghanistan as it is a common but irregular winter visitor to the Samana, just over the boundary.

***Emberiza pyrrhuloides* Pallas.**

Specimens collected.—♂ n.d. Maimanah, ♀ 1 Feb. Chahar Shamba (Yate).

These provide the only records of the Thick-billed Reed Bunting. I have not been able to examine them to identify the form more particularly.

***Emberiza schoeniclus pallidior* Hartert.**

Specimens collected.—♀ 8 February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ ♂ ♀ 20 February-3 March Chahar Shamba, ♀ 10 March Kara Bel, ♀ 10 March Gulla Chashma (Yate); ♀ 5 Nov. 1933 Bagrani 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

These are the only records of the Reed-Bunting in Afghanistan. Swinhoe says that it is only a winter visitor at Kandahar.

***Emberiza fucata arcuata* Sharpe.**

Specimen collected.—sex? 17 July Shadian (Scully).

In immature plumage. The only record for Afghanistan.

***Emberiza leucocephala* Gmelin.**

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ Pashat ♂ ♀ Kabul (Griffith); sex? 16 April 1874 Panja (Biddulph); ♂ 12 December ♀ 27 December 1879, ♂ 12 January 1880 Kandahar (St. John); 2 ♂ 2 January, ♀ 29 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 9 December 1884 Ab-i-Kamarra (Aitcheson); ♂ 7 November Kabul 5,700 ft., ♀ 2 December 1933 Chahiltan 5,900 ft., ♀ 7 January, ♀ 30 December 1934 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

The above records provide the only information about the Pine Bunting in Afghanistan. It is evidently a winter visitor.

***Emberiza stewarti* Blyth.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 23 February 1840 Pashat (Griffith); 7 skins 22 April-16 May 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 21 July 1933 Khinjan Valley 7,700 ft. (Maconachie); 2 ♂ 8-9 April Paghman 8,000 ft., 2 ♂ 27 April Dar-e-Shikari 6,000 ft., 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 28-29 April 1937 Doab 5,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Wardlaw-Ramsay found the White-capped Bunting excessively abundant in open country in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. about Byan Khel. It began to breed about the end of April and large numbers of their nests were found in May and June. In Northern Afghanistan Meinertzhagen found it nowhere common, but widely distributed between 5,000 ft. and 8,000 ft. They were in the snow in the Paghman Valley on 9 April and no increase or decrease in their numbers was noticed so the majority are doubtless resident though some of the winter visitors to North-west India may come from Afghanistan. Not yet recorded from the western half of Afghanistan though found in Persia.

**Emberiza cia par** Hartert.

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ Pashat (Griffith); ♂ 19 April 1874 Panja (Bidulph); ♂ 19 June Speen-Gurhwar Kotal, 2 ♀ 19 June 1879 Peiwar Kotal, (Wardlaw-Ramsay); 4 ♂ 2 ♀ 4-12 April near Kabul 6,000-8,000 ft., 1 ♂ 4 ♀ 15-17 April 1937 Ghorband 6,500-8,200 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen found the Meadow-Bunting not uncommon around Kabul with deep snow on the ground in early April and in the Ghorband Valley and Bamian between 7,000 ft. and 8,500 ft. On 16 April there was a distinct increase in their numbers in Ghorband and when he passed there again at the end of May the breeding birds were limited to an odd pair at long intervals. Meinertzhagen did not meet with the species to the north or west of the Shibar Pass. It is common, however, on the south-east of this area as Wardlaw-Ramsay found it on all the lower pine-clad slopes of the Safed Koh as well as of the Peiwar Spur and over the boundary Whitehead says it nests fairly commonly on the Safed Koh up to 11,000 ft. Wardlaw-Ramsay found it breeding on 19 June at 8,000 ft. at the foot of the Peiwar Kotal.

Meinertzhagen considers the status to be that of a resident and summer visitor. It would seem likely that many of the great numbers which appear in the Western Punjab in winter must come from Afghanistan.

**Emberiza buchanani** Blyth.

Specimens collected.—Sex? Afghanistan (Griffith); 2 ♂ base of Kossack Pass (Griffith); ♂ 9 April, sex? 27 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ 8 April Kandahar, ♂ 28 April 1881 Gatai (Swinhoe); ♂ ♀ 1 May 1885 Kambao (Aitcheson) ♀ 15 May near Kabul 6,200 ft., sex? 10 September 1933 Jangal Murda 12,000 ft. (Maconachie); 2 ♂ 24-26 April Bamian 8,500 ft., ♂ 29 April Doab 5,000 ft., 1 ♂ 2 ♀ 24 May 1937 Ghorband 8,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen found the Grey-necked Bunting to be a fairly common summer visitor to the hills of Northern Afghanistan between 5,000 ft. and 9,000 ft., first encountered at Bamian on 24 April at 8,500 ft. when 2 males in company were shot. There were more in the Ghorband Valley in mid-April but in late May they were quite common and breeding. A nest with fresh eggs was found in the Paghman Valley at 8,500 ft. on 27 May. Maconachie's specimens agree with this status but the bird at 12,000 ft. on Jangal Murda was perhaps a migrant.

Griffith is said to have found the Grey-necked Bunting in flocks near shingly or stony hills (Horsfield and Moore ii, 485). These were probably on passage as St. John and Swinhoe found it a passage migrant at Kandahar. Hutton says it is found there in summer but I do not think he distinguished very clearly between summer visitors and passage migrants. Swinhoe says it arrived in the first week of April. Numbers were found resting on the city walls on 8 April and great numbers were to be seen feeding on the road all the way to the Khojak Pass.

**Emberiza hortulana** Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—7 ♂ 19-25 April 1885 Tirphul (Aitcheson).

Status uncertain. Aitcheson says that the Ortolan was very common in the vicinity of Tirphul.

**Emberiza melanocephala** Scopoli.

Specimen collected.—♀ 24 April 1881 Melcharez 40 m.s. of Kandahar (Swinhoe).

Evidently a straggler as St. John remarks that the swarms of Black-headed Buntings that winter in India miss Afghanistan on passage.

**Emberiza bruniceps** Eversmann.

Specimens collected.—4 ♂ 2 ♀ Kandahar (Griffith); ♂ May, ♀ 4 June Bvan Khel, ♀ June 1870 Zabberdast Kila (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ ♀ ♀ 22 April Mundi Hissar, ♀ 23 April 1881 Abdul Rahman (Swinhoe); 5 ♂ 12-19 April Tirphul, ♂ 3 May Shore Kaltegai, ♂ 4 May 1885 Gulran (Aitcheson); ♂ ♂ ♀ 28-30 April Chahar Shamba, ♀ ad. ♂ juv. 12-13 May Kila Wali (Yate); ♂ 11 June 1933 Logar Valley, ♂ 30 April 1934 Kabul 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 25 April Bamian 8,500 ft., 2 ♂ 27-29 April Doab 5,000 ft., ♂ 1 May



Barfak 4,000 ft., ♂ 2 May Doshi 2,750 ft., 1 ♂ 3 ♀ 5-8 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

A summer visitor to Afghanistan. In the north Meinertzhagen first met it on 25 April at Bamian, when a single cock arrived. After that date they soon became abundant, especially at Danaghori, Kunduz and Haibak. In some years it must arrive earlier as Hutton and St. John say that it arrives in Kandahar at the beginning of April and is common. Swinhoe found numbers, evidently on passage, at Mundi Hissar and Abdul Rahman feeding in the early morning and perching during the day on the mud walls of the roadside forts. It has not yet been recorded from south-west Afghanistan.

It breeds plentifully in the Hariab Valley at 7,000-8,000 ft. where Wardlaw-Ramsay found the first nest on 19 June.

**Emberiza calandra** Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—4 ♂ 1 ♀ 5-8 May Danaghori 2,300 ft., ♀ 19 May 1937 Khanabad 1,800 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Corn Bunting has only been met with by Meinertzhagen in Afghan Turkestan at Danaghori and in the cultivated country about fifteen miles south of Khanabad. In both localities it was breeding. Meinertzhagen refers his birds to *E. c. buturlini* but specimens in fresher winter plumage which Ticehurst and I collected in Jhang district, and which must surely represent the Afghan population, could not be separated from the typical form.

(To be continued)

OCURRENCE OF BIRDS IN MADURA DISTRICT.

BY

EDWARD G. NICHOLS.

PART III

(Continued from Vol. xlv, No. 4 (1944), p. 584).

**Crocopus phoenicopterus chlorogaster.** Southern Green Pigeon. *Pachai purā.*

Plains near Palni in October 1866 (Fairbank), and up to 4000' in the Palni Hills.

Resident. Terry found them nesting in April on the hills toward Palni.

Rare.

**Dendrophassa pompadora affinis.** Gray-fronted Green Pigeon.

Western hills, from 3000' at Kumili up to 4000' in the Lower Palnis. (In other districts it occurs on the plains also and up to 4500'.)

Probably resident. I have seen only 10 of this species with 6 of the Southern on June 18.

Rare; in tall trees.

**Dendrophassa bicincta.** Orange-breasted Green Pigeon.

The type-locality for *bicincta* is near Tellicherry.

J. R. Herderson's list of the birds of the Palni Hills includes this species without comment. (Elsewhere it has been found only in wet forests at low elevations in Travancore, Ceylon, etc.)

**Ducula badia cuprea.** Brown Imperial Pigeon. *Perum burā.*

From 3000' at Kumili, to the top of the western hills. (In other districts it occurs as low as 500' elevation.)

Resident.